



# New grant funds best practices in teacher training

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The Laboratory and New Mexico Highlands University join forces with four public school districts to increase the number of highly skilled teachers in the state, thanks to a new grant of \$321,381 from the New Mexico Public Education Department.

The four public school districts are Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Pojoaque Valley, and Santa Fe. The project is an outgrowth of the Regional Partnership School, a collaboration among Pojoaque Valley Schools, New Mexico Highlands University, and the Laboratory's Math and Science Academy —the first of its kind among a public school, public university, and regional employer in New Mexico.

“As a committed community partner, Los Alamos National Laboratory believes in supporting educators as they prepare the next generation to join the workforce and bring prosperity to the region,” said Thom Mason, Laboratory Director. “I thank the state of New Mexico and our partners in elementary, secondary, and higher education for coming together for this game-changing initiative where we all stand to win.”

“Highlands is deeply committed to providing equitable education to all children,” said Sam Minner, President of New Mexico Highlands University. “This grant will produce highly qualified and confident educators for our children in the schools with the greatest needs.”

State Representative Andrea Romero introduced legislation in the 2020 session creating a pilot project for a teacher-in-residence program.

“Our students deserve well-trained teachers,” Romero said. “I am pleased to see best practices in education take root in New Mexico.”

## Building a clinical residency program

Funding will support 10 state residents who are teachers in training with a stipend of \$20,000 each. The grant requires teacher residents in the program to hold a bachelor’s degree. They will complete the program with a New Mexico teaching license. The grant also funds training for the mentoring teachers as well as professional development activities in mathematics across the four partner school districts.

“This innovative grant will build a clinical residency program to effectively train new teachers who reflect the diversity of the populations of our partner schools,” said Mary Earick, Dean of the School of Education at Highlands and lead researcher of the grant. “What gives me great joy is that we’re looking at a more impactful way of preparing teachers using a co-teaching and mentorship model.”

Since 2018, the three partners have been collaborating on the [Regional Partnership School in Pojoaque](#), where four full-time Laboratory employees with expertise in education have worked with the two educational institutions to create a model system for teacher development. The program follows the professional development school approach that has enjoyed success across the country, where a school becomes a center of excellence in teacher development in much the same way as a teaching hospital fosters the development of doctors and medical research.

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